

LAS FLORES COMMUNITY GARDEN

Standing Rules (as of July '24)

The mission of Las Flores Community Garden is to provide space for citizens to garden together – to create a shared vision, to work collaboratively, and to cultivate a place for individuals, families and friends to learn about and to experience the rewards of organic gardening. We are deeply committed to community pride and unity, teaching organic methods, preservation of open spaces and native habitat for biodiversity.

The Garden was established to be enjoyed by the residents of the Conejo Valley who do not have garden space available. Being a Garden member and having a plot does require constant attention and substantial physical labor throughout the year. This activity should not be undertaken by those who do not have the time, energy and resources. Please bear in mind that plots must be maintained properly, be kept clear of weeds and are to be kept aesthetically pleasing, and planted year round. As members, all gardeners are expected to work with their neighbors to ensure a safe and pleasant environment.

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO KNOW AND COMPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING RULES & REGULATIONS.

1. Mailing Address

P.O. Box 7104
Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

2. Hours Of Operation

The garden is open to members only, from sunrise to sunset.

3. Membership and Rates

- a. Proof of residency is required; members must be 18 years of age or older.
- b. 10' x 20' plots lease for \$75 annually; six-month proration is available after July 1st. There is a one-time, refundable, \$75 cleanup/security deposit due at signup. Annual membership fees are due no later than December 31st for the following year. We accept Venmo, Zelle, cash or checks.
- c. All new members are on a 4-month probation period and can be dismissed during this time for not following LFCG Rules, without appeal. After this period, a member will be notified in writing of any infraction/violation and given a time limit to make the corrections/repairs. If the issues have not been resolved during this time, their membership may be revoked and their plot released back to the LFCG. Repeated offenses, even if rectified, could result in a non-renewal of the annual membership.
- d. Guests are not to enter the garden until a liability waiver form is signed. Guests are not members and do not share the plot. Members are prohibited from giving the gate codes to any non-member. This includes outside workers or vendors.
- e. Membership status is subject to revocation for non-payment of fees or non-compliance of Rules or Bylaws.
- f. Multiple plots are not allowed for individuals and, effective June 1, 2022, only one plot per household will be allowed.

- g. Plots cannot be transferred to family or friends, sublet, shared or bequeathed.
- h. Transferring to a different plot requires a written request to the Board.
- i. Notify the Board, in writing, if you are discontinuing your membership.

4. Plots

- a. A new member must have their plot cleared, soil building started, and/or cultivated within four (4) weeks of plot assignment.
- b. To align with CRPD standards, alterations to your plot (i.e. fencing, permanent trellises, pest control domes, rebuilding, redesigning, etc.) must be submitted in writing to the Board of Directors for approval. This request should include the design and the materials to be used. Work cannot commence until approval from the Board has been given. To do so may jeopardize your membership.
- c. Maximum Height Restrictions (from the ground up)
 - Raised Beds - 2' in height
 - Fencing - 4' in height max; must be within the 10' x 20' plot dimensions.
 - Trellises - 6' in height and 20' in width (maximum) of fixed trellising per plot is allowed. Preferably, this should be either one 20' trellis, or two 10' trellises. A plot may never be completely enclosed by trellising. They cannot be connected by overhead crossbars and vines cannot be grown overhead. They should be aesthetically pleasing and any growth on the trellises should not shade your neighbors' gardens.
 - TeePee Trellises - 6' in height max.
 - Row Covers - 6' in height; row covers are for temporary use only for frost, pest control or shade. NO vines may be grown on row covers.
 - Domes - 8' for Domes is the maximum allowed. These are considered row covers for pest control and can not be used as trellises. No growth up the sides or overhead is permitted. Board approval is required prior to building a Dome and specifications, supplied by the Board, must be followed.
- d. Plots must be planted year-round. Winter gardening may include cover crops but cannot be fallow. Solarization requires prior approval from the Board.
- e. All plots and adjoining pathways are to be kept free of weeds, trash, dead plants, debris year-round. Fruits and vegetables are to be harvested in a timely manner.
- f. Selling produce of products made from harvest, including flowers and herbs is prohibited.
- g. Gardening shall be done in accordance with organic gardening principles as defined in *The Encyclopedia of Organic Gardening* by Rodale Press.
- h. No artificial fertilizers or soil, toxic pesticides, herbicides or any other chemicals may be used. Use of RoundUp will not be tolerated and is grounds for immediate dismissal.
- i. All plant growth must be contained within the boundary of your plot. Plant growth cannot block pathways (including trellis vines and potted plant growth) nor can vines be grown on domes, or grown on the Community Garden perimeter chain link fence.
- j. Water conservation must be practiced and restrictions may be put into place in times of severe drought. No watering between 12:00-3:00 pm. Turn off faucets and release the pressure in hoses before leaving. Do not water another member's plot without their permission.
- k. Members may not personally tap into the irrigation system or alter it in any way. Irrigation hookups to plots are available and done by our garden specialists. Members

must have been a member for at least one month before requesting a hookup in writing to the Board. There is a \$75 fee for the hookup, but there may be additional costs if longer trenching is needed. Irrigation system within the plot will be the responsibility of the member but must be in accordance with Irrigation Regulations.

- l. Ponds, fountains, or waterfalls are not allowed.
- m. No permanent posts are allowed. If you need stability for fence posts, place the cement in large cans, insert the posts and lower into the fence post hole.
- n. Other garden plots may not be entered without the member's permission. No soil, seeds, fruits, vegetables, hand tools, or any other item may be removed from another member's plot without their explicit permission. To do so may lead to dismissal from LFCG.

5. Trees / Orchard

- a. All trees are banned in individual plots, except fruit trees, which must be in an above ground container with a stone or paver under the container to restrict roots from escaping from the pot. 6' height restrictions apply.
- b. Trees may be available to lease in our Orchard to members in good standing and to new members that have passed their probation period (4 months).
- c. Leasing a tree in our Orchard requires an additional membership fee (\$20 per tree per year) and has its own specific set of rules to follow. Inquire if interested to: orchard@lasfloresgarden.com

6. Pest Control

- a. Members are responsible for their own pest control. Pests encountered in the Garden are insects, rabbits, rats, squirrels, gophers, moles, voles.
- b. Control of varmints includes the use of snap-traps and/or live traps. Live-trapped animals are released outside the perimeter of the garden; snap-trapped animals are to be properly disposed of in the dumpsters.
- c. Unused garden supplies, trellises, wood, debris, etc., must be removed regularly if not in use to prohibit varmint housing.
- d. A member tampering with any trap is subject to immediate dismissal.
- e. Use of poisons is illegal and is subject to immediate dismissal.

7. Workdays

- a. Members must contribute one (1) hour per month, per plot, to community work projects. Work hours are for the current month and cannot be accrued. Additional hours performed beyond this requirement are not eligible as credit to past or future months.
- b. Working in personal plots is not considered community work. Members must sign the Task Sheet to receive credit for work hours. A \$20 fine is assessed, per plot per month, for members who do not fulfill their work contribution. These fines are due within 30 days or no later than quarterly.

8. Greenhouse Rules

- a. Available to all members who wish to use the greenhouse for starting seeds. You must attend an orientation class to participate as there are specific guidelines to be followed. To arrange an orientation time, please send requests to greenhouse@lasfloresgrden.com

9. Consideration

- a. No tobacco products or e-cigarettes are allowed in the garden.
- b. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted except for special events and with approval from the Board.
- c. Use of LFCG members personal information for commercial marketing or political purposes is prohibited.

10. Tools, Equipment, Supplies

- a. Tools are provided for use in each of the tool sheds around the garden. Do not permanently remove items from the sheds. Clean tools before returning them.
- b. Do not remove sprinkler heads and/or hoses from common irrigation stations.
- c. If you purchase your own sprinkler head, keep it in your plot.
- d. Clean tools before returning them.

11. Health & Safety

- a. No pets are allowed inside the garden, except certified service dogs. Paperwork is required.
- b. Avoid standing water in containers/saucers so as not to breed mosquitoes.
- c. Members may not apply manure tea due to possible bacterial contamination and offensive odor. NO human or animal waste may be used in the garden.

12. Compost

- a. Personal compost bins are grouped around the garden. Do not place trash in any empty compost bins as this attracts rodents.

13. Notifications and Communication

- a. Any correspondence, mailed or emailed, to the address on file will be considered delivered.
- b. Members must inform the Board of any changes in address, phone number, or email immediately.
- c. In addition, members must notify the board of vacations, long-term illnesses or other circumstances that may result in extended absences. You are responsible for making arrangements for the care of your plot during absences.

14. Grievances

- a. Please submit all grievances in writing to the Board

CRPD Controversial and Banned Plants

The following list of plants are not allowed in plots nor anywhere in Garden due to their invasive, poisonous or illegal nature. Members will be notified if we find evidence of a banned plant and if not removed, the Board can and will enter the members' plot and remove the plant. (See below for a list of these plants.)

Banned plants

- Raspberry (Can be part of the Orchard)
- Blackberry (Can be part of the Orchard)
- Cannabis (Marijuana)
- All Mints (May be found in the Community Herb Garden)
- Morning Glory
- Tropical Milkweed (Not to be confused with native Narrowleaf Milkweed found in the Butterfly Habitat and in other areas of the garden.)
- Bamboo
- Deadly Nightshade (Atropa belladonna)
- Ceanothus Bermuda
- Datura/Brugmansia (Angel Trumpets)
- Castor
- Euphorbia lathers (Gopher Spurge)
- Ice plant
- Pampas Grass
- Japanese Honeysuckle
- Papyrus
- Mexican False Heather
- Smoking Tobacco
- Orange Honeysuckle
- St. John's Wort
- Plumbago
- Sugar Cane
- Prickly Pear
- Cactus
- Yucca
- Horseradish
- Wisteria
- Palms
- Stinging Nettles